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THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

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A Brief Summary of Economic Conditions

ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FEWER HOGS—MORE CATTLE—LIVESTOCK READJUSTMENTS

Once more the annual inventory of the Nation's livestock, made as of January 1, indicates that the number of cattle and sheep increased during the past year but that the number of hogs still further declined. The number of horses and colts again showed a decrease, continuing a downward trend which has gone on for several years.

The total number of hogs and pigs in the country decreased about 7.5 per cent during the year. The decrease in the Corn Belt was 6 per cent. Corn-Belt hog production during the past three years apparently has shown only moderate changes. The evidence of some decline in hog production, which is supported by the 1929 pig surveys and by reduced slaughtering in the last four months, suggests that the supply of hogs going to commercial slaughter for the marketing year ending with September, 1930, will be somewhat smaller than that of the previous marketing year. In other words, the present hog supply situation is rather favorable to the producer.

It appears that the beef cattle industry has passed the low point of its production cycle and is now beginning slowly to expand. There is no evidence of very much increase in beef herds as yet and slaughter in 1930 is expected to be about the same as in 1929. However, cattlemen are faced with a general tendency toward increasing numbers of cattle and with the fact that in previous experience such periods of expansion have been accompanied by several years of generally declining prices.

Dairymen also face a period of readjustment. While an annual increase of about 1 per cent in the number of milk cows is necessary, normally, to balance the growing demand, the number was increased 3 per cent in 1929. The present number of heifers, 6 per cent larger than a year ago, is sufficient to cause still further increases in cow numbers in 1930. Probably more calves have been raised in the last two years than can be raised to advantage hereafter. Dairymen who have to buy dairy cows will probably be able to buy replacements at less cost in two or three years than they can now.

Although the number of sheep increased by 1,400,000 head last year, this represented the smallest increase in the past four years. The estimated lamb crop last year, however (25,976,000 head), was about 1 per cent smaller than that of 1928. The native lamb crop was larger but the western crop, due primarily to bad weather, was considerably smaller.

The total value of farm livestock on January 1, 1930, was \$5,865,000,000, compared with \$6,003,000,000 a year ago.

TREND OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

The following shows the number of farm animals in the United States according to the estimate made as of January 1 each year. (Issued January 23, 1930, by Crop Reporting Board.)

[Figures given in terms of thousands, last three ciphers being omitted]

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
Horses-----	17, 943	17, 222	16, 489	15, 830	15, 133	14, 495	13, 905	13, 440
Mules-----	5, 696	5, 720	5, 725	5, 739	5, 652	5, 504	5, 390	5, 322
All cattle-----	66, 156	64, 507	61, 996	59, 122	56, 832	55, 676	56, 467	57, 967
Swine-----	68, 189	64, 950	55, 568	52, 148	54, 788	60, 617	56, 880	52, 600
Sheep-----	37, 223	38, 300	38, 112	39, 730	41, 881	44, 795	47, 509	48, 913
Milk cows----	21, 840	22, 161	22, 481	22, 188	21, 801	21, 828	21, 919	22, 499
Heifers ¹ -----						4, 184	4, 413	4, 669

¹ Heifers 1 to 2 years old kept for milk cows.

Decreased numbers of hogs, horses, and mules and increased numbers of cattle and sheep are shown by the annual estimate of livestock numbers on farms. Numbers of milk cows on January 1, 1930, were larger than a year earlier and there was also another substantial increase in yearling heifers and heifer calves being kept for milk cows. Combining all livestock numbers in units which allow for differences in size and feed requirements of the several species, the composite number on January 1, 1930, was practically the same as on January 1, 1929, and but little below January 1, 1928. It was, however, 15.2 per cent below January 1, 1920.

The total value of all livestock on January 1, 1930, was \$5,864,969,000 compared to \$6,003,598,000 January 1, 1929. The 1930 valuation, while below that of a year ago, was above any other year since 1921. The total value of each species was below that of a year ago.

Cattle numbers increased again this year. The number of all cattle January 1, 1930, was 57,967,000 head compared to the revised number of 56,467,000 head January 1, 1929, and 55,676,000 head January 1, 1928. The increase of this year brings total cattle number above those of 1927 but below any of the previous 13 years. The value per head this year was somewhat below a year ago, being \$57.28 January 1, 1930, and \$59.15 January 1, 1929. The total valuation of all cattle this year, in spite of an increase in number was slightly below a year ago, being \$3,320,104,000 this year and \$3,340,182,000 last year.

Milk cows and yearling heifers being kept for milk cows are included in the all-cattle figures. Considerable increases in both these classes are shown this year. Over two-thirds of the increase in all-cattle numbers this year was due to the increase in milk stock, including heifer calves being saved for milk cows. This is the first considerable change shown in milk cow numbers since 1927, but heifers and heifer calves have been increasing for two years. The number of milk cows this year was 22,499,000 head with a value per head of \$83.40, compared to 21,919,000 head and a value per head of \$84.63 a year ago.

AVERAGE PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS

Actual prices received by producers at local farm markets as reported to the division of crop and livestock estimates of this bureau. Average of reports covering the United States, weighted according to relative importance of district and State.

	5-year average August, 1909- July, 1914	Decem- ber average, 1910- 1914	Decem- ber, 1928	Novem- ber, 1929	Decem- ber, 1929
Cotton, per pound.....cents..	12. 4	12. 2	18. 0	16. 2	16. 0
Corn, per bushel.....do.....	64. 2	57. 7	76. 1	81. 0	78. 0
Wheat, per bushel.....do.....	88. 4	86. 7	98. 2	103. 4	108. 1
Hay, per ton.....dollars.....	11. 87	11. 99	11. 23	11. 18	11. 04
Potatoes, per bushel.....cents..	69. 7	62. 3	57. 7	134. 8	135. 3
Oats, per bushel.....do.....	39. 9	38. 3	42. 5	43. 1	43. 6
Beef cattle, per 100 pounds.....dollars.....	5. 22	4. 93	8. 94	8. 63	8. 48
Hogs, per 100 pounds.....do.....	7. 23	6. 93	7. 93	8. 54	8. 53
Eggs, per dozen.....cents.....	21. 5	29. 6	42. 9	44. 2	45. 8
Butter, per pound.....do.....	25. 5	28. 3	46. 3	44. 4	43. 0
Butterfat, per pound.....do.....			49. 2	43. 5	41. 9
Wool, per pound.....do.....	17. 7	18. 6	35. 6	28. 5	27. 8
Veal calves, per 100 pounds.....dollars.....	6. 75	6. 74	11. 82	11. 80	11. 69
Lambs, per 100 pounds.....do.....	5. 91	5. 92	11. 41	10. 74	10. 76
Horses, each.....do.....	142. 00	137. 00	78. 00	78. 00	77. 00

At \$8.53 per hundredweight on December 15, 1929, the United States average farm price of live hogs was practically the same as on November 15, but approximately 7.5 per cent higher than a year ago. From November 15 to December 15 of last year the farm price of hogs advanced about 0.5 per cent in the North Central States, but this advance was completely offset by continued price declines in other sections.

Farm prices of beef cattle continued to decline from November 15 to December 15, a 2 per cent reduction during this period, bringing the United States average to \$8.48 per hundredweight as compared to \$8.94 in December, 1928.

The United States average farm price of corn declined approximately 4 per cent from November 15 to December 15. Corn prices declined generally throughout the country, although the extent of the reduction ranged from 1 per cent in the South Central division to 6 per cent along the South Atlantic coast. On December 15, however, the average farm price for the country was still about 2.5 per cent above the average for the corresponding date in 1928.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND WAGES

[1910-1914=100]

Year and month	Wholesale prices of all commodities ¹	Industrial wages ²	Prices paid by farmers for commodities used in—			Farm wages	Taxes ³
			Living	Production	Living production		
1910.....	103	-----	98	98	98	97	-----
1911.....	95	-----	100	103	101	97	-----
1912.....	101	-----	101	98	100	101	-----
1913.....	102	-----	100	102	100	104	-----
1914.....	100	-----	102	99	101	101	100
1915.....	103	101	107	103	106	102	102
1916.....	129	114	125	121	123	112	104
1917.....	180	129	148	152	150	140	106
1918.....	198	160	180	176	178	176	118
1919.....	210	185	214	192	205	206	130
1920.....	230	222	227	175	206	239	155
1921.....	150	203	165	142	156	150	217
1922.....	152	197	160	140	152	146	232
1923.....	156	214	161	142	153	166	246
1924.....	152	218	162	143	154	166	249
1925.....	162	223	165	149	159	168	250
1926.....	154	229	164	144	156	171	253
1927.....	149	231	161	144	154	170	258
1928.....	153	232	162	146	156	169	263
1929.....	151	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
December—	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1921.....	142	196	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1922.....	159	208	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1923.....	154	220	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1924.....	160	222	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1925.....	159	229	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1926.....	150	232	163	143	155	-----	-----
1927.....	152	233	161	142	153	-----	-----
1928.....	151	237	161	146	155	-----	-----
1929.....	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
January.....	152	234	-----	-----	-----	162	-----
February.....	151	236	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
March.....	153	239	161	148	156	-----	-----
April.....	152	237	-----	-----	-----	167	-----
May.....	150	236	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
June.....	151	236	160	146	155	-----	-----
July.....	154	235	-----	-----	-----	173	-----
August.....	153	237	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
September.....	153	240	161	146	155	-----	-----
October.....	151	237	-----	-----	-----	174	-----
November.....	148	233	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
December.....	148	234	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics. Index for 1928 obtained by multiplying new series by 156.6.

² Average weekly earnings, New York State factories. June, 1914=100.

³ Index of estimate of total taxes paid on all farm property, 1914=100.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES AND PURCHASING POWER

[On 5-year base, August, 1909–July, 1914=100]

Year and month	Index numbers of farm prices							Prices paid by farmers for commodities bought ¹	Ratio of prices received to prices paid
	Grains	Fruits and vegetables	Meat animals	Dairy products	Poultry products	Cotton and cottonseed	All groups 30 items		
1910-----	104	91	103	100	104	113	103	98	106
1911-----	96	106	87	97	91	101	95	101	93
1912-----	106	110	95	103	101	87	99	100	99
1913-----	92	92	108	100	101	97	100	100	99
1914-----	103	100	112	100	105	85	102	101	101
1915-----	120	83	104	98	103	78	100	106	95
1916-----	126	123	120	102	116	119	117	123	95
1917-----	217	202	173	125	157	187	176	150	118
1918-----	226	162	202	152	185	245	200	178	112
1919-----	231	189	206	173	206	247	209	205	102
1920-----	231	249	173	188	222	248	205	206	99
1921-----	112	148	108	148	161	101	116	156	75
1922-----	105	152	115	134	139	156	124	152	81
1923-----	114	136	106	148	145	216	135	153	88
1924-----	129	134	109	134	147	211	134	154	87
1925-----	156	160	139	137	161	177	147	159	92
1926-----	129	189	146	136	156	122	136	156	87
1927-----	128	155	139	138	141	128	131	154	85
1928-----	130	146	150	140	150	152	139	156	90
1929-----	121	136	156	140	159	145	138	-----	-----
December—									
1921-----	88	165	91	147	211	131	115	-----	-----
1922-----	111	104	107	147	198	195	131	-----	-----
1923-----	108	114	98	155	198	253	137	-----	-----
1924-----	155	110	113	137	217	176	139	-----	-----
1925-----	140	194	136	146	213	139	143	-----	-----
1926-----	120	137	140	144	212	81	127	155	82
1927-----	123	141	138	145	195	153	137	153	90
1928-----	112	108	143	146	197	148	134	155	86
1929									
January----	115	109	146	145	161	148	133	155	86
February----	123	111	150	144	158	149	136	156	88
March-----	124	112	160	144	144	155	140	156	90
April-----	120	110	164	142	127	152	138	155	89
May-----	113	119	164	139	134	148	136	155	88
June-----	111	120	163	135	140	146	135	155	87
July-----	122	136	167	135	143	145	140	155	90
August-----	129	160	165	137	151	146	143	155	92
September--	131	160	156	139	165	146	141	155	91
October-----	128	168	151	141	181	141	140	² 155	² 91
November--	118	159	144	142	200	132	136	² 155	² 88
December--	119	163	143	140	204	130	135	² 155	² 87

¹ These index numbers are based on retail prices paid by farmers for commodities used in living and production, reported quarterly for March, June, September, and December. The indexes for other months are straight interpolations between the successive quarterly indexes.

² Preliminary.

THE TREND OF MOVEMENT TO MARKET

Figures show wheat, corn, hogs, cattle, and sheep receipts at primary markets; butter receipts at five markets, compiled by this bureau.

Year and month	Receipts					
	Wheat	Corn	Hogs	Cattle	Sheep	Butter
Total—	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000 bushels</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,000 pounds</i>
1920.....	332,314	210,332	42,121	22,197	23,538	402,755
1921.....	435,606	340,908	41,101	19,787	24,168	468,150
1922.....	413,106	378,598	44,068	23,218	22,364	526,714
1923.....	386,430	271,858	55,330	23,211	22,025	545,380
1924.....	482,007	278,719	55,414	23,695	22,201	587,477
1925.....	346,381	223,604	43,929	24,067	22,100	574,489
1926.....	362,876	234,873	39,772	23,872	23,868	572,935
1927.....	455,991	241,245	41,411	22,763	23,935	581,592
1928.....	495,450	335,149	46,527	21,477	25,597	578,845
1929.....	437,681	264,934	43,565	20,380	26,832	602,665
December—						
1920.....	30,780	18,276	4,200	1,395	1,566	21,573
1921.....	21,616	42,639	3,931	1,417	1,664	30,839
1922.....	46,002	38,145	5,004	1,825	1,516	32,334
1923.....	28,756	37,930	5,825	1,810	1,526	34,888
1924.....	33,076	29,239	6,604	2,083	1,605	33,155
1925.....	33,670	32,587	4,380	2,056	1,608	36,199
1926.....	19,831	22,528	3,910	1,846	1,706	36,054
1927.....	23,903	36,777	4,209	1,691	1,609	33,687
1928.....	31,976	44,128	4,773	1,510	1,610	36,863
1929						
January.....	21,307	37,993	5,061	1,635	1,876	44,922
February.....	26,154	31,818	3,922	1,191	1,543	41,557
March.....	25,788	21,775	3,378	1,445	1,526	46,186
April.....	16,666	15,152	3,545	1,748	2,010	48,707
May.....	17,996	11,249	3,375	1,653	2,169	63,259
June.....	23,785	20,818	3,230	1,443	1,747	69,511
July.....	88,376	21,120	3,257	1,659	2,112	68,104
August.....	97,041	18,414	2,930	1,616	2,537	54,885
September.....	45,112	18,664	3,062	2,099	3,353	44,500
October.....	34,825	17,863	3,674	2,401	4,091	42,963
November.....	19,285	18,692	3,910	1,939	2,167	38,228
December.....	21,346	31,376	4,221	1,551	1,701	39,843

THE TREND OF EXPORT MOVEMENT

Compiled from the Department of Commerce reports by division of statistical research of this bureau.

Year and month	Wheat, ¹ includ- ing flour	Tobacco (leaf)	Bacon, ² hams, and shoulders	Lard	Total ³ meats	Cotton ⁴ running bales
Total—	1,000 bushels	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 bales
1920-----	311, 601	467, 662	821, 922	612, 250	1, 043, 000	6, 111
1921-----	359, 021	515, 353	647, 680	868, 942	786, 280	6, 385
1922-----	235, 307	430, 908	631, 452	766, 950	733, 832	6, 015
1923-----	175, 190	474, 500	828, 890	1, 035, 382	958, 472	5, 224
1924-----	241, 454	546, 555	637, 980	944, 095	729, 832	6, 653
1925-----	138, 784	468, 471	467, 459	688, 829	547, 361	8, 362
1926-----	193, 861	478, 773	351, 591	698, 961	428, 613	8, 916
1927-----	228, 576	506, 252	237, 720	681, 303	302, 795	9, 199
1928-----	151, 976	575, 408	248, 278	759, 722	315, 586	8, 546
1929-----	154, 924	555, 326	275, 179	829, 124	360, 885	7, 422
December—						
1920-----	30, 377	45, 391	83, 276	90, 080	101, 088	785
1921-----	15, 217	38, 772	36, 848	64, 542	42, 242	635
1922-----	16, 728	36, 954	65, 642	78, 596	76, 830	605
1923-----	13, 358	49, 269	76, 263	98, 578	89, 887	834
1924-----	24, 616	44, 384	33, 788	76, 803	43, 113	1, 053
1925-----	8, 437	68, 378	40, 277	68, 840	46, 537	974
1926-----	15, 301	50, 379	23, 503	62, 680	28, 746	1, 504
1927-----	12, 197	47, 661	19, 839	62, 855	24, 344	745
1928-----	12, 053	67, 587	18, 886	86, 358	23, 040	1, 058
1929						
January-----	9, 833	44, 166	24, 669	89, 932	31, 684	787
February-----	8, 948	48, 390	19, 512	65, 924	27, 129	613
March-----	9, 405	30, 602	23, 346	70, 572	31, 190	556
April-----	9, 151	39, 073	25, 062	59, 144	30, 748	454
May-----	16, 128	32, 202	27, 106	64, 192	33, 915	313
June-----	9, 003	28, 168	26, 895	67, 252	33, 903	299
July-----	13, 784	23, 459	24, 647	64, 274	32, 352	238
August-----	17, 338	40, 411	24, 743	55, 487	31, 764	226
September-----	18, 568	54, 385	19, 425	58, 339	26, 229	726
October-----	14, 926	77, 384	18, 151	70, 698	26, 520	1, 251
November-----	15, 412	71, 422	24, 219	83, 257	31, 394	1, 049
December-----	12, 428	65, 664	17, 404	80, 053	24, 057	910

¹ Wheat flour is converted on a basis of 4.7 bushels of grain equal 1 barrel of flour.

² Includes Cumberland and Wiltshire sides.

³ Includes fresh, canned, and pickled beef; bacon, hams, and shoulders; fresh, canned, and pickled pork; fresh mutton and lamb.

⁴ Excludes linters.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE

Production, consumption, and movements	December, 1928	November, 1929	December, 1929	Month's trend
PRODUCTION				
Pig iron, daily (thousand tons).	109	¹ 106	92	Decrease.
Bituminous coal (million tons)...	¹ 44	¹ 46	46	Unchanged.
Steel ingots (thousand long tons).	¹ 4,018	3,513	2,896	Decrease.
CONSUMPTION				
Cotton, by mills (thousand bales).	534	544	454	Do.
Unfilled orders, Steel Corporation (thousand tons).	3,977	4,125	4,417	Increase.
Building contracts in 37 Northeastern States (million dollars).	382	391	316	Decrease.
Hogs slaughtered (thousands)...	3,230	2,521	2,767	Increase.
Cattle slaughtered (thousands)...	910	957	921	Decrease.
Sheep slaughtered (thousands)...	917	994	966	Do.
MOVEMENTS				
Bank clearings (New York) (billion dollars).	39	43	33	Do.
Carloadings (thousands)-----	¹ 3,517	4,892	3,341	Do.
Mail-order sales (million dollars).	74	74	90	Increase.
Employees, New York State factories (thousands).	472	485	466	Decrease.
Average price 25 industrial stocks (dollars).	287	275	287	Increase.
Interest rate (4-6 months' paper New York) (per cent).	¹ 5.38	5.75	5.00	Decrease.
Retail food price index (Department of Labor) ² .	156	160	158	Do.
Wholesale price index (Department of Labor) ³ .	97	94	94	Unchanged.

¹ Revised.² 1913=100.³ 1926=100.

Data on this page, excepting livestock slaughter and price indexes, are from the Survey of Current Business, Bureau of the Census, United States Department of Commerce.

COLD-STORAGE SITUATION

[January 1 holdings; shows nearest millions, i. e., 000,000 omitted]

Commodity	5-year average	Year ago	Month ago	Jan. 1, 1930
Apples-----barrels--	¹ 8, 088	¹ 9, 052	¹ 9, 380	¹ 7, 963
Creamery butter-----pounds--	49	44	112	82
American cheese-----do-----	56	68	71	63
Case eggs-----cases--	¹ 1, 225	¹ 1, 415	¹ 2, 631	¹ 710
Total poultry-----pounds--	123	110	116	140
Total beef-----do-----	101	99	93	105
Total pork-----do-----	557	670	490	625
Lard-----do-----	59	85	69	82
Lamb and mutton, frozen-----pounds--	4	6	5	5
Total meats-----do-----	733	857	661	826

¹ Three figures omitted.

Stocks of apples expressed in terms of barrels were 7,963,000. This compares with 9,052,000 barrels a year ago and a 5-year average of 8,088,000.

Creamery-butter stocks exceeded those of a year ago by 38,054,000 pounds and the 5-year average by 33,257,000 pounds. The out-movement during December was 29,813,000 pounds which compares with 27,202,000 for December a year ago. The 5-year average movement has been 30,255,000 pounds. Cold-storage holdings of cream were compiled for the first time with the January 1 report and were as follows: 272,644 40-quart cans for January 1 and 323,025 40-quart cans for December 1.

Stocks of American cheese were reduced by 7,607,000 pounds compared with a reduction a year ago of 6,250,000. Holdings were less than the same date last year by 4,617,000 but exceeded the 5-year average by 7,842,000 pounds.

Total stocks of all varieties of cheese were 5,160,000 pounds less than a year ago and 7,364,000 in excess of the 5-year average.

Case-egg holdings were reduced by 1,921,000 cases as compared with 2,127,000 a year ago. January 1 stocks were about half of what they were last year and half a million cases less than the 5-year average.

There was an accumulation of frozen and cured pork stocks to the extent of 135,524,000 pounds which compares with over 208,000,000 last year. The 5-year average increase has been nearly 141,000,000 pounds.

Total stocks of all meats were increased during December by over 165,000,000 pounds. Holdings were less than last year by over 31,000,000 and in excess of the 5-year average by 93,000,000 pounds.

Lard stocks were increased by 13,000,000 pounds and were less than a year ago by nearly 4,000,000. They were in excess of the 5-year average by nearly 23,000,000 pounds.

WILLIAM BROXTON,
Cold Storage Report Section, B. A. E.

SUMMARY OF DAIRY STATISTICS

[Million pounds, 000,000 omitted]

PRODUCTION

Products	December			January to December, inclusive		
	1929	1928 ¹	Per cent change	1929	1928 ¹	Per cent change
Creamery butter----	94	92	+2.0	1,514	1,487	+1.8
Farm butter-----	36	37	-1.7	580	590	-1.7
Total butter-----	131	130	+1.0	2,094	2,077	+0.7
Cheese-----	23	24	-4.9	375	438	-14.3
Condensed and evaporated milk--	117	113	+3.8	2,066	1,918	+7.7
Total milk equivalent-----	3,264	3,239	+0.8	52,878	52,789	+0.2

APPARENT CONSUMPTION

[Including production, changes in stocks, and net imports or exports]

Butter-----	160	157	+2.2	2,055	2,080	-1.2
Cheese-----	34	37	-5.8	452	494	-8.3
Condensed and evaporated milk--	132	121	+8.8	1,875	1,803	+4.0
Total milk equivalent-----	4,044	3,965	+2.0	52,358	53,130	-1.4

¹ Corrected to final figures.

T. R. PIRTLE,
Division of Dairy and Poultry Products, B. A. E.

SUMMARY OF THE YEAR PAST IN VARIOUS STATES

(Reports from State representatives of the division of crop and livestock estimates of this bureau)

NEW ENGLAND

The past season has been quite favorable to New England farmers. Deficiency of rainfall during the summer months damaged crops in some instances but on the whole was less harmful than the excessive summer rainfall of the two preceding seasons. Nearly all crops made yields which compare favorably with those of last year and average.

Prices, however, for the principal crops are equal and materially better than those prevailing a year ago.

Although the acreage planted to potatoes in New England this year was 6 per cent less than that of last year, the final estimate of production is 16 per cent in excess of a year ago. Due to the light crop in other parts of the United States, potato prices to growers have been about three times those of last year. On the whole, potatoes in New England were mostly of good size, free from rot, scab, and other blemishes. Potatoes undug about the middle of October in Aroostook County were quite seriously damaged by a heavy freeze. The potato crop in Maine is the largest on record for that State and is selling at very satisfactory prices. Car-lot movement to December 13 totals 24,188 cars compared with 14,500 cars during the same period a year ago.

The past season was only moderately favorable to fruit production. Production was materially higher than a year ago, particularly in Maine and Vermont. The apple crop was quite light in Connecticut. Apple prices have been quite satisfactory. Of the important varieties, Baldwins, except in Maine, are lighter than a year ago; McIntosh were materially better than in 1928.

Onion acreage in Massachusetts was reduced materially in 1929. Yields, however, were quite high and total production is materially higher than a year ago. Early sets marketed at good prices. Prices for seed onions have been low.

Yields of Connecticut Valley tobacco crop were materially higher than a year ago. A severe hailstorm on August 1 damaged nearly 10,000 acres of the tobacco crop, 5,000 acres were never harvested. Broadleaf tobacco, in particular, was seriously damaged by the hailstorm. The crop although heavy in weight per acre is only fair in quality. Prices are high compared with recent years.

Milk production was comparatively light during the early part of the year but has been lighter than average during the past three months. Milk prices will average higher than in 1928. Hay yields were quite satisfactory and quality far better than a year ago.

C. D. STEVENS.

NEW YORK

On the crop side, production of hay was abundant and of exceptional quality during 1929. Corn silage was variable, while the grain crops gave light yields. The potato crop, which suffered from drought in most parts of the State except a few of the central counties, was especially light on Long Island. Prices for crops were variable, though the disastrously low prices of some seasons were not in evidence.

Dairy production was well maintained, in spite of the severely dry summer weather with accompanying poor pastures. Unusually heavy summer feeding was the rule, many dairymen responding to the plea to maintain full production, particularly in November, and thus avoid unfortunate milk shortages. There was plenty of milk and some to spare for manufacture. Milk prices were generally more favorable than at any time since 1920, while the prices of concentrated dairy feeds were not excessive, in proportion to the price of milk.

The poultry industry carried through the season in good shape.

Farm wages were maintained at their former high level. Because of the good conditions throughout the harvesting season, labor was

more effective than usual, while little complaint was heard with reference to its scarcity.

During the year several legislative measures, which should be of help in either relieving rural taxation or in providing better environment, became effective, or took effect to a more generous degree. Of such are the gasoline tax, a partial shifting from the localities of part of the expenses previously borne for State roads and bridge construction, and increases in State aid to rural schools. There appears to be an increased interest, expressed intelligently, by the people of the cities, in the things pertaining to a permanent agriculture in the State.

On the whole, 1929 was a year of ups and downs, but net income from the farms as a whole will probably compare favorably with 1928. even though some individuals have been especially hard hit, while others have profited abundantly.

R. L. GILLETT.

CALIFORNIA

The 1929 crop season in California, when viewed from all angles, was fairly satisfactory. The total production of all crops in tons will likely exceed the average for the past five years but can not approach the production in 1928. Prices, particularly of fruits, were better the past season than during the previous year, and it is expected the total value will be equal to or slightly above the value last year.

A big crop of rice in 1928, with comparatively poor prices, caused a decrease in the acreage sown to this crop. During the latter part of the season, conditions were extremely favorable and the entire crop was harvested, threshed, and placed in the warehouses without a drop of rain. As a result, one of the best yields per acre was obtained since rice growing has become of commercial importance in California.

The cotton area harvested increased from 218,000 acres in 1928 to 309,000 acres the past season. Conditions were very favorable for maturing the crop and notwithstanding the increase in acreage, the average yield per acre will almost equal that of the previous year. The bean acreage increased materially, although the average yield per acre was not as good as in the previous year. Prices were better however, and the total value of the bean crop is consequently greater.

April frosts caused heavy damage to the fruit crops in certain areas; Sacramento Valley being the hardest hit. The Clingstone peach crop suffered the greatest injury from frost. Production was less than 50 per cent of the previous year. Those sections not visited by frost, as a general rule, had good fruit crops.

The principal production of almonds, being confined to the frost areas that prevailed the early part of April, the crop was materially reduced in tonnage, the total production being about one-third of that of the previous year. Walnuts, being produced principally in the southern part of the State, escaped the frost damage and the crop is more than 50 per cent better than in 1928.

In nearly all cases, better prices were obtained for California deciduous fruits the past season than for 1928, and the total value of such fruits will probably show some increase.

The car-lot movement of vegetable crops shows some slight increase over the previous year, but the prices obtained were no better and in some cases not so good, so that the value of truck crops will be about the same as in 1928.

On the whole, 1929 has been a very trying year for California livestock interests. Natural feed supplies as well as stock water on pastures and ranges were generally short over the entire State. The situation became more acute in many areas as the season advanced, culminating with the reported condition rating of 46 per cent for pastures and ranges on December 1. This is the lowest condition recorded since 1919, when such records began. Fall rains began December 8, nearly two months later than usual, but covered only the northern half of the State, which is now fairly well soaked.

As a result of these unfavorable conditions, lambs and cattle did not attain their normal market condition this year and stock stuff in many cases sustained heavy shrinkage. Some forced sales were made, especially of cattle. Stockmen have been hard-put to keep their stock together and have been at very heavy expense in moving their stock around and in purchasing enormous supplies of supplementary feeds. Actual losses of stock because of drought conditions have been very small. Winter hay supplies in the high mountain counties are adequate for normal needs.

Receipts from the sale of sheep, lambs, and wool were lower this year than last because of the severe slumps in market values. Cattle prices have not held up to expectations and the usual heavy fall in shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from near-by States have been sharply curtailed. Hog prices have been disappointing, resulting in another decline in swine production. Prices for dairy products have been well maintained, but producers have been handicapped by much higher feed costs. The poultry producers have done fairly well, but turkey raisers did not secure prices which were entirely satisfactory. Hatcheries reporting to this office have shown larger sales of chicks than in 1928.

The end of the year finds livestock producers in general operating under heavy expenses, with a none too optimistic outlook for net returns during the next several months.

E. E. KAUFMAN.
GEORGE A. SCOTT.

WYOMING

Wyoming agricultural crops promise to close the season of 1929 showing gross values about 5 per cent greater than last year and much more than for any recent year. On the production side, the composite of all crops is around 5 per cent under the 10-year average and 1 to 2 per cent below 1928. The deficiency in production was more than offset by better prices and particularly for potatoes, beans, and hay. The present indicated crop values for the State are nearly \$37,000,000, compared to \$32,000,000 last year.

In general, the harvest of all Wyoming crops was accomplished under favorable circumstances, even the sugar beets were mostly delivered without undue strain or expense before the severe storms and low temperatures, occurring October 28 and later.

Soil and moisture conditions are now much better than usual or last year and the winter wheat outlook is highly encouraging. There has been a decided increase in acreage planted.

While the advance in crop values despite the lower production is very gratifying, the increase has been more than offset by lower prices for livestock, so the gross agricultural inventories are likely to show a

material decline over last year. The income from livestock will be considerably less than for 1928, due to lighter calf, pig, and lamb and wool crops, greater losses, and lower price levels for all stock and wool marketed.

The margin of profit in the livestock business is further reduced by greater costs of feed. To take care of the extra costs, stockmen report close selling and a general, though mostly small, reduction of inventories. There is not much forced liquidation nor expansion. Stockmen are still optimistic but cautious. The financial situation is regarded as favorable, though not encouraging to expansion. Due to severe cold weather and storms since October 1, much heavy and expensive feeding has already been incurred in parts of the State. The snow covering in some sections is still somewhat unfavorable, though ranges are now mostly open.

There are about 15 to 20 per cent more lambs and a few less cattle on feed than a year ago. The price outlook for the fat stock thus far is disappointing.

Wyoming ranges are quite fully stocked and the lower prices of sheep and wool checked rapid increases of farm flocks but there is room for crop expansion and there is a decided tendency to break new lands, particularly in the dry-farming sections in the eastern parts of the State.

Many new tractors and tractor farming machines have been bought. Some large operators are coming into the field. Winter wheat, beans, flax, and certified seed potatoes are affording the immediate encouraging inducements.

The total crop acreage harvested in 1929 was about 3.5 per cent greater than that harvested in 1928.

W. W. PUTNAM.

PENNSYLVANIA

Fifty thousand fewer acres harvested this year, lower yields and production, except for the winter grains, but higher prices for both field and fruit crops, except wheat and rye, resulting in a total estimated value of \$244,000,000 this year compared with \$220,000,000 last year, summarizes the 1929 crop situation in Pennsylvania—a very creditable showing considering the extremely adverse weather conditions.

Drowned out in April and May, burned out in July and August, and frozen out in September, was the unfortunate lot of many a farmer.

Much oats headed low and was exceedingly disappointing. Hay yield was lighter than last year but slightly above average and the crop was put away in excellent condition. Pasturage was very short. Dry weather reduced the buckwheat plantings and so injured the growing crop that many fields were never harvested. This was also true of potatoes, but yields of these two crops, together with corn, turned out better at harvest time than was expected in the early fall. The tobacco yield was not up to that of 1928, but the crop is expected to grade high and the growers anticipate a prosperous year.

The supply of milk exceeds the demand of the fluid market and producers seem unable to produce at a profit for manufactured products. Prices received for poultry products were higher this year

than last, and hatcherymen are making plans to increase their capacity for the 1930 season.

Poultry flocks and hatcheries under State supervision have increased in number. During the year 1,000 additional herds of cattle have been placed under supervision for the eradication of bovine infectious abortion, and the number of cattle in the State tested for tuberculosis is approaching the million mark.

The cooperative organizations, including only one-fifth of the farmers, are largely able to finance themselves. No relief from the onerous taxes on farm land is in sight. Pennsylvania agriculture has demonstrated its ability to withstand a lot of punishment. The condition of progressive farmers unquestionably is slowly improving; others are experiencing much difficulty but are looking forward to better days.

E. L. GASTEIGER.

WASHINGTON

Optimism is the dominant note on the farms at the close of the 1929 harvest. Crop production, it is true, fell in a general way below that of 1928, and with some crops below the 5-year (1923-1927) average of production. But on the whole, better prices at the farm-gate have substantially offset decreased production.

Agriculture in Washington has risen to the plane of "big business." For the 5-year period (1924-1928) the gross value of farm production totaled \$1,138,026,000, crops contributing \$773,789,000 and animal products \$364,237,000. Total cash income was \$850,103,000. Crops brought to the producer \$545,540,000 and animal products \$304,563,000. Wheat, the major revenue-producer, yielded about \$11,000,000 gross over the combined value of the fruit crops.

Extreme drought over all the State characterized the 1929 crop season, and particularly in the regions east of the Cascades. Yields generally were reduced somewhat below those of last year and below the average of the preceding five years. Pastures and ranges were short, stock water scarce; the scant supplies of hay and feed sold at high prices, and hundreds of cattle had to be shipped to market in poor condition.

Wheat production fell short of the 1928 harvest by about 6,500,000 bushels, but oats yields in the coastal counties were good, the LaConner flats and contiguous territory in Skagit County threshing from 75 to 150 bushels to the acre. Oats production was about a million and a half bushels better than in 1928.

Continuation of Washington's predominant lead over the entire Nation in the production of apples is assured in the harvest of the 1929 crop of 26,656,000 bushels. If the estimate for this year is realized, apples moving as fresh fruit into consuming channels will approximate 35,000 cars. Washington apples nowadays are shipped to all parts of the world. Over 4,000,000 boxes were exported from the 1928 crop.

Clarke, the major prune county, produced this year approximately 11,000,000 pounds of dried prunes, bringing to the grower an average price of 7½ cents, although a few growers obtained as high as 10 cents early in the season. This will give the farmers of Clarke an income of nearly \$1,000,000.

A huge acreage of beans, estimated at 10,500 acres, was planted for commercial purposes in the highland sections of Walla Walla and Columbia Counties for an eastern cannery. Summer fallow land was used. The beans made a good crop and matured in about 80 days. They were harvested by combines, eight men operating each combine.

Washington milk production is estimated around 1,575,000,000 pounds; and the value of dairy products is placed about \$45,000,000.

The reduced numbers of chickens in the United States and the lower cost of feeds have proved of considerable advantage to poultrymen in this State. Some authorities place the reduction of pullets raised in Washington this past summer at about 20 per cent. Poultry products are estimated at about \$30,000,000, to which amount eggs contributed, say, \$25,000,000 and fowls marketed about \$5,000,000.

Wool production in Washington averages around $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 millions of pounds per clip.

JOHN S. DENNEE.

IOWA

The bread basket for Iowa was generously supplied during the crop season of 1929. Favorable national attention has been focused upon Iowa this year as a particularly bright spot on the 1930 prospect map, because of the stabilizing influence of her agriculture. Ten important crops, not including hay, produced a total of 695,246,000 bushels of grain and food items which were stored in granaries and cribs under favorable conditions. This volume of production was 9 per cent less than that for the same crops in 1928, but ranked 14 per cent higher than in 1927, more than 6 per cent higher than in 1926, and 10 per cent higher than in 1925. The average production for these crops for the four years previous (1925-1928) was 664,000,000 bushels, which gives the year 1929 a favorable rating of about 5 per cent in excess of this 4-year average.

The gross value of crop and livestock production in Iowa in 1929 probably will total about \$1,155,000,000 as compared with \$1,129,485,000 in 1928. This comparison of values should be considered as receipts from the farms, not as measures of relative economic conditions in Iowa agriculture. Estimates of value of livestock production in 1929 are incomplete but this will probably be rated slightly in excess of that of 1928, which was around \$574,210,000. Crop values for the closing season amount to nearly \$575,000,000, or 110 per cent of the average values for the 4-year period (1925-1928). It is an increase of 9 per cent since 1925 and 3 per cent above the value of crops for 1928.

Corn planting in May proceeded under difficulties, due to unfavorable wet weather. Planting was delayed so that the average date of completion was at least a week later than usual. In some counties in the southern third of the State a considerable acreage had not been planted until the middle of June. More favorable weather in the northern half of the State permitted early planting and normal progress of the corn crop. In some northwestern counties, average yields exceeded those recorded for the past decade. The total production of corn for the year was less than the crop of 1928 but was 6 per cent above the average production for the 5-year period 1923-1927. The average farm price of corn on December 1, 1929, was 69 cents or 2 cents higher than a year ago, however, there is enough difference

in the volume of the crop for the two seasons that the value of production of the 1929 crop is 5 per cent less than the previous crop.

The movement of stocker and feeder cattle into Iowa since the beginning of November has been unusually heavy, about 76 per cent larger receipts than a year ago, and 36 per cent larger than two years ago for the period of November 1 to December 7. Lightweight stockers and feeders have been in most demand. Men who have fed out steers during the past year have generally cleared some profit, although men who fed mediocre cattle and did not have adequate feeding and watering facilities were fortunate if they got back the purchase price. There has been a slight increase in the number of home-grown feeder steers in certain sections of the State, and those so fortunate as to raise a carload of their own feeding steers have made very satisfactory returns from their investment in cows and in the steers produced.

Operations in the dairy industry held up favorably during the year until about the 1st of October when prices of dairy products declined and have continued on a slightly lower level than usual at this time of the year.

The onion industry in the peat-land areas has developed rapidly in the past three years. Yields ranging from 100 to 500 bushels were common this year and one grower produced 25,800 bushels of onions on 25 acres of peat land. Onions of the highest quality marked the crop in these new lands.

The marketing of hogs from Iowa during 1929 continued on a usual high level, final marketing returns being expected to show nearly 12,500,000 head. This volume will be about 26 per cent of the total number of hogs marketed from the Corn Belt during the year and is about the normal proportion of the Corn Belt movement. The normal movement of hogs from Iowa yearly calls for 12 per cent of the yearly total to be marketed in January, decreasing gradually each month of the spring until in April 7 per cent of the total is shown as the lowest monthly percentage in the year.

The indications are for a slight increase in the number of sows bred for farrowing in the spring of 1930. Coupled with this increase in spring pig prospects is a probable increase in corn acreage next year. The harvested acreage of corn in 1929 was 2 per cent below that of 1928. Supplies in the southern half of the State are below normal and feed requirements in other parts of the State are stronger than usual. The quality of the 1929 corn crop disappointed feeders in some sections and the supply will dwindle rapidly.

Taken by and large, a normal season in agriculture marked the closing year and presented an optimistic outlook for 1930.

LESLIE M. CARL.

ILLINOIS

The 1929 season can be rated as a fairly favorable year for the majority of Illinois farmers. The combined production of all crops measured up to average. The total acreage of all crops harvested this past year differs little from that of 1928. Decreased acreages of corn, spring wheat, oats, and barley were largely offset by increased acreages of tame hay, winter wheat, and soybeans. Part of the moderate improvement evident in the present agricultural situation must be credited to the fact that this season's agricultural records follow

the more favorable season of 1928. Improvement is never uniform over such an extended and diversified farming area as Illinois.

This has been an off year for apples and crop yields show considerable variation, especially in part of the southern half of the State.

The season got off to an unpromising start but finished stronger than was earlier indicated.

The livestock industry has maintained its relatively strong position. Livestock prices show little change from those of a year ago with the exceptions of sheep and wool. Cattle, sheep, and poultry numbers on farms have been slightly increased. Hog numbers are somewhat less than those of a year ago. Dairy and production records have been maintained or increased. Cattle and sheep feeding operations show some expansion over the rather liberal numbers on feed a year ago. Reports indicate livestock in favorable condition. Roughage feed supplies are abundant generally and grain feed ample as a rule.

The production of all crops combined does not total up as favorable as that of the 1928 season. However, the gross farm value of 16 principal crops produced in 1929 approaches that of 1928 and has only been exceeded by that of the 1928 season, during the past four years. The gross farm value of the 16 principal crops produced this season is about \$425,000,000, a decrease of less than 3 per cent from the total gross value of \$437,000,000 for these crops in 1928. This valuation compares with \$360,000,000 in 1927, \$366,000,000 in 1926, and \$430,000,000 in 1925.

The 1929 production of hay, peaches, and soybeans was the largest on record. Other crops ranged from somewhat better than average for oats, white and sweet potatoes, cotton, pears, and grapes to about average for corn, spring wheat, cowpeas, red clover and timothy seed to below average for winter wheat, barley, rye, buckwheat, sorghum sirup, and broomcorn. Apples were a short crop. The northern half of the State fared better than the southern half of the State all through the season and the northwestern area shows the best general average for all crop yields.

This report should not be construed as indicating that the Illinois agricultural situation has taken on a roseate hue. It does mean, however, that as a result of the continued favorable position of the livestock industry, combined with two fairly favorable crop seasons in succession, the majority of farmers have made some progress, and confidence in the future of the agricultural industry has been increased.

A. J. SURRETT.

LOUISIANA

The three big money crops of this State, namely: Cotton, rice, and sugar cane have generally produced satisfactorily this season. The acreage in cotton was the largest ever planted in this State. Rice yielded exceptionally well and was mostly harvested under favorable conditions.

A severe freeze visited the State on December 3 and 4 which killed all standing sugar cane within this State. Since the freeze, planters have put forth every effort to windrow the cane and operate the mills to capacity both night and day. The extent of the loss is not yet fully known. The frozen cane will be ground as long as the sucrose content justifies grinding. Shortly after the freezes the weather

turned warmer, accompanied by rain, but of late has been more favorable. Cool, dry weather is needed throughout the remainder of the grinding season.

Truck crops in general did fairly well this season. However, prices were unsatisfactory in some instances and severe freezes in early December and later on during the month practically destroyed all tender truck, which will have to be replanted for the late winter and early spring market.

The citrous crop apparently was not damaged materially by the cold weather. Concerning citrous fruit production, the industry is on the increase in Plaquemine Parish south of New Orleans. Large numbers of orange trees have been set out during the last two seasons, and within a few years Louisiana is expected to ship several hundred carloads of citrous fruit to northern markets each season.

The strawberry crop in Tangipahoa Parish is of great interest and a large revenue producer locally. The plants have withstood the winter thus far very well and apparently are in very good shape at this time.

All classes of livestock offered for sale this season have brought good prices and interest has been stimulated in a waning livestock industry. There is also much local interest in the matter of securing a state-wide tick eradication law at the next session of the legislature. Dairying is being extensively advocated as a side line for farmers and undoubtedly would be greatly stimulated if the State were free of ticks.

With flood control in prospect, farmers in the Delta region are anticipating a prosperous future.

LIONEL L. JANES.

OKLAHOMA

Only about 1½ per cent less crop acreage was harvested this year than last. However, the returns were considerably less. The aggregate value of the 1929 crops fell short of those of 1928 by \$45,000,000, or 15 per cent.

Wheat suffered the worst. The wheat crop in Oklahoma deteriorated during the month of June. A period of wet weather ended about the middle of June, followed immediately by hot, dry weather, which, striking wheat in the "dough" stage, stopped all growth and caused the kernels to shrivel. While prices rose right after harvest time, the low quality of much of the wheat caused it to be penalized heavily and prevented holding for higher prices.

The season was unfavorable for corn on account of drought. The corn which matured early gave a fair to good yield in the southern third of the State but was damaged materially in the northern part. All of the late corn was damaged considerably, except in some localities where corn on bottom lands escaped without much injury.

Oklahoma's cotton crop was practically the same as in 1928, but the December 1 price was 21 per cent lower than a year ago. The long seasonal drought was most severe in the southwestern part of the State. Conditions there were very similar to 1928. The early September rains were beneficial, but the fall months generally were unfavorable. November, 1929, the coldest November on record in this State, delayed cotton picking.

The winter of 1928-29 afforded very little wheat pasture. Spring pastures were excellent but late summer pastures were burned by

drought. Feed supplies for the present winter are sufficient if average weather prevails. If the winter should be severe, there would be a shortage. Good wheat pastures are now available.

STUART L. BRYAN.

TEXAS

The past crop season in many respects has been very unfavorable. While wheat, oats, barley, rye, hay, and fruit produced more than in 1928, other crops such as cotton, corn, rice, grain sorghum, white and sweet potatoes, and peanuts made less. The value of these last seven crops last year constituted 75 per cent of the total crop income. Cotton, alone, reduced the income by approximately \$100,000,000.

With the exception of the large crop in 1919, wheat production was the largest on record. Encouraged by the good yields in the Panhandle, the acreage sown last fall for harvest in 1930 was the most extensive ever sown in the State. On the other hand, cotton yield per acre during the past season was the lowest recorded, except that of 1921 when the weevil destroyed a third of the crop. A number of counties made more cotton than in 1928, but in many others the returns were below the cost of production.

Conditions in various sections are bad. Owing to the extended drought, many farmers were not able to raise enough feed to carry the work stock into the spring which will necessitate more than usual borrowing in order to be able to make next year's crops. There is much discouragement among the farmers and a decided tendency to find employment in the towns. Farm hands are plentiful but there is very little demand for hired labor.

Cattle prices on the ranges have gone down to about the level of the summer of 1928; sheep and goats are also down. Wool and mohair brought the lowest returns in several years. Many stockmen are willing to sell but are not ready to sacrifice. As a whole, the industry is in strong hands. Stock has gone into the winter in fair to good condition and, unless the weather becomes very severe, losses should not be unusually heavy.

Dairying and poultry raising have continued the expansion begun a few years ago. Cheese factories and milk-processing plants have increased as never before. The prices received by the producers of milk, cream, and poultry have not been altogether encouraging in all sections. An increase in turkey production made the returns from this source very unsatisfactory. New acreage continues to be brought into cultivation to the extent of somewhat more than 2 per cent a year. This is especially true in the south and northwest where the mechanization of the farm has made most rapid progress.

H. H. SCHUTZ.

IDAHO

Idaho's total income from crop and livestock production in 1929 will be fully as large, and possibly larger, than that of 1928. The growing season was shortened by a late spring and early fall which, combined with below-normal precipitation, reduced yields materially. However, prices received for important commodities will average enough higher to offset reduced production.

The wheat crop, which is the largest contributing item to gross income, totaled 24,515,000 bushels against 28,792,000 in 1928.

Higher prices give a value of \$24,270,000, or about \$2,500,000 less than last year. The feed crops of corn, oats, barley, and rye were smaller this year, but higher prices for corn and rye about even up total value with 1928.

There is little difference in hay production, but prices will average higher this year, so that income from this item will exceed that of 1928.

The potato crop will bring in about \$12,000,000 more than last year. Production is around 2,000,000 bushels less than 1928, but prices will average over three times higher than last year. Shipments may total 20,000 cars, against 18,893 last year, due to the demand. Number twos are bringing a better price than did number ones in 1928.

Eight of the nine sugar factories are operating this year because of sugar-beet production being more than double that of 1928. Growers will receive more than \$5,000,000, and additional large sums will be paid in wages for factory operation.

Production and total value of all fruit crops were greater than in 1928.

The winter of 1928-29 was very expensive for sheepmen. Feeds were high priced and the feeding season extended a month later than usual in the spring. Wool and lamb prices will probably average slightly lower than 1928. Earlier in the season there was a tendency to maintain current numbers, but this fall has seen rather close selling of breeding stock. Cattlemen also have been selling rather close to liquidate indebtedness.

Fattening of sheep and cattle for market is on a larger scale this fall than a year ago, due to a larger beet crop and increased by-products in fields and around sugar factories. There seems to be no tendency to increase hog production. Fewer sows for farrowing next spring are indicated by the December pig survey.

The dairy and poultry industries continue their large production and bring in thousands of dollars to the State.

The outlook for crop production in 1930 has improved materially since December 15 because of generous precipitation. This will benefit materially the winter wheat crop, which suffered a decline in condition and acreage planted because of the prolonged drought.

J. H. JACOBSON.

ARKANSAS

The year 1929 furnished extreme contrasts in conditions affecting agriculture.

February and March were favorable for land preparation. Late April and May were excessively rainy. Then from June 10 to September 3 excessive drought prevailed over most of the State.

These conditions resulted in much late planting and consequent poor growth of corn, late potatoes, sweet potatoes, cane, Lespedeza, legumes, and other field crops. Oats, early potatoes, and first cuttings of hay were good, but all crops maturing after July 1 were injured and yields depressed.

Because of the ability of the cotton crop to yield well despite dry weather, we have a lint per-acre yield of 186 pounds, or 9 pounds above the previous 5-year average, and a total production of approximately 1,500,000 bales, the third largest in the State's history.

Thanks to this production, our aggregate farm production value will exceed that of last year by about 4 per cent for the State as a whole. It will exceed 1927 by 10 per cent and 1926 by 14 per cent.

The farm credit situation is probably somewhat easier, as a whole, than a year ago. Conditions have improved in the eastern part of the State but declined in the western part. More land is selling in eastern Arkansas than for a number of years. There is some improvement in most of central Arkansas. Southeast Arkansas has about held its own, but the west central and northwest district have had a discouraging year.

Due to slightly improved economic conditions, the farmers' attitude toward his calling is generally better.

The labor situation is fairly easy.

The Federal Land Bank of St. Louis reports that: "On November 30, 1928, out of 14,764 loans in force in Arkansas, 563 were delinquent. This year, out of approximately the same number, 448 were delinquent, or a decrease of 115.

"During the past year the Federal Land Bank of St. Louis closed 347 new loans in Arkansas, or a total of \$821,800.

"This year we sold 65 farms in Arkansas, as against 49 last year."

CHARLES S. BOUTON.

KENTUCKY

At the close of the 1929 season Kentucky farmers find themselves rather confusedly taking stock of a very varied assortment of favorable and unfavorable factors bearing directly on their economic status. There is wide variation as among different areas and different lines of production.

Delinquencies in meeting installments on long-term farm indebtedness reached their peak during 1929, but most of the officers of land banks, joint-stock banks, insurance companies, and similar long-term lenders are hopeful that the larger production of crops in western Kentucky will materially improve the farmers' paying ability. This is not an entirely unanimous opinion, however, for some men in close touch with agricultural conditions are not so optimistic. The writer's personal opinion is that, considering the State as a whole, there is a very slight improvement. There seems to be a little better inquiry for farm lands, provided they be sold at very moderate prices and of desirable quality and location.

The hay crop was excellent and abundant throughout the State, and corn excellent in western Kentucky but varies from excellent to failure from drought in central and northern counties.

With tobacco, the State's chief cash crop, selling late in December at prices which if continued would indicate something like 10 or 12 per cent less gross income from about 20 per cent greater production on 22 per cent greater acreage than in 1928, and which cost more to produce than a year ago, it is difficult to see any great improvement in the farmer's return from crops.

Dairying and spring lamb production have done fairly well but cattle and hogs not very well, so that income from livestock and livestock products has not been great enough to increase the general level of prosperity very markedly. However, there is a general tendency toward more careful, thoughtful, and better-balanced production, considerable submarginal land has gone out of production, and the

farmers of Kentucky are apparently, as a whole, a little better off than one year ago.

H. F. BRYANT.

WISCONSIN

In general, the agricultural situation for Wisconsin in 1929 was sharply different from the situation in 1928. Our entire crop season this year has been distinctly different from that of a year ago. Last year (1928), because of an unfavorable winter and spring, our hay production was relatively small and much of our winter grain acreage was destroyed. This year the reverse is true. Wisconsin produced a record hay crop and the quality is unusually fine, consisting largely of clovers, the biggest production being made on clover and alfalfa fields as compared with grasses and old timothy meadows which did not produce especially well.

Since over half of the farm income in this State is derived from milk, the price of milk is a primary factor in determining our agricultural conditions. The high point in the present Wisconsin milk price cycle was reached in September, 1928, October of this year falling below October, 1928, and prices have been appreciably lower during the current year. For the first 10 months of 1929 average farm milk prices were between 4 and 5 per cent below last year.

Hog prices, while somewhat above a year ago, did not come up to expectations in the latter months of 1929. Cattle prices and the price of veal calves, while above last year during the earlier months of the year, have been falling below during the closing months. In general, these will average about the same as last year.

Cash crops are making varied returns. Of these the potato is most important in Wisconsin, and the acreage was reduced about 20 per cent this year. In addition, yields are low but prices very satisfactory. This year's production will aggregate a little over 20,000,000 bushels, as compared with nearly 32,000,000 bushels last year, but the farm income from potatoes this year will be nearly three times that of last year.

Tobacco, which is an important cash crop in certain districts, was rather short of leaf but heavy. It will yield somewhat less than last year, and the State's production is estimated at about 45,000,000 pounds. Prices are apparently holding well.

The fall, though dry, was generally favorable and field work and harvesting of crops was carried out under satisfactory conditions. New seedings of clover and grasses are reported to be in good condition in spite of the dry fall.

WALTER H. EBLING.

WEST VIRGINIA

The crop season of 1929 was marked by a crop acreage slightly smaller than the preceding year and crop yields less than that of 1928, due to droughty conditions over the State. This drought covered most of the State but was most severe in the northeastern part of the State, which is our commercial apple section and also very rich as an agricultural section. In some localities no rain fell for 75 days. Farm prices for crops were higher than prices in 1928, due to the decrease in production, and consequently the total value of 12 principal crops was \$51,188,000 as compared with \$49,659,000 in 1928.

The 57,000 acres of potatoes harvested this year produced 6,555,000 bushels, or roughly 1,000,000 bushels less than the record crop of 1928, when 60,000 acres were harvested. Lower yields following this decrease in acreage accounted for the decreased production; however, prices are much higher than in 1928 and the total value of this year's crop will exceed the 1928 crop by more than \$3,000,000.

The hay acreage for the State was reduced again this year and lighter yields reported. A small increase in price was not enough to offset this decreased production and the value of the 1929 hay crop was under that of 1928.

The season was unfavorable for the production of apples and estimates show a marked decrease in the State's total crop and a small decrease in commercial production. Early frost did more damage to the farm orchards than to better located and well protected commercial orchards and these early frosts, together with a heavy June drop and severe drought, were the material factors reducing the crop. Quality of the crop was lower than the crop of 1928 and no difficulty was encountered in filling the foreign demand for small apples. Prices range from 40 to 50 per cent higher than in 1928 and the total value of the total crop is estimated at \$7,280,000 against \$7,875,000 in 1928.

The production of peaches, pears, and grapes was materially smaller than last year and values fell short of the 1928 crops, although prices for all fruits exceeded those of 1928.

The livestock situation at the beginning of the year showed an increase in the number of cattle, sheep, and poultry, a slight decrease in horses and mules, and a material decrease in hogs. The increase in number of cattle and sheep was largely due to the building up of breeding herds in response to a more favorable price situation.

Horses and mules continue to decrease; some increase is expected in the number of colts being raised.

The price situation has improved materially and all prices of livestock, with the exception of hogs, show an increase, while hogs show a sharp drop in prices.

THOS. F. McDONOUGH.